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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,154	10/31/2001	Aubrey Lee Ingram	WOK-001.01 (23031-101)	4151
25181	7590	03/07/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY HOAG, LLP PATENT GROUP, WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BLVD BOSTON, MA 02110			HANNE, SARA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/998,154	Applicant(s) INGRAM ET AL.	
	Examiner Sara M Hanne	Art Unit 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 35 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 35 depends upon itself, which is improper form. Examiner believes this to be a typographical error and the claim is treated as if it depends from Claim 23

Claim 41 recites the limitation "said employee services management service" in line 1 of the claim on page 35. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-30 and 32-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kahn et al., US Patent 6401079, hereinafter Kahn.

5. As in Claim 1, Kahn teaches a method for providing employment management services to a network user, the method comprising: providing a user interface to the user to access the employment management services, wherein the user interface comprises controls (Figures 18, 28 and 40 show several examples of the available interfaces), the employment management services includes a payroll services application (Col. 47, lines 21-44), receiving first information from the user via the controls and processing the received information to provide an employment service to the user (Col. 47, lines 21-23).

As in Claim 2, Kahn teaches a portal and wherein the controls of the user interface are provided with the portal (Col. 11, lines 26-40).

As in Claim 3, Kahn teaches presenting controls to the user via the user interface to access the business application (Col. 11, line 42, et seq.), wherein the controls are presented to the user based upon the first information received from the user (which tab is clicked on, Figure 6 with corresponding text) and receiving second information from the user via the controls, wherein the first and second information is processed to provide an employment service to the user (Col. 27, lines 52- Col. 28, line 12, et seq.).

As in Claim 4, Kahn teaches bundling controls, wherein the bundled controls are presented to the user via user interface to access business application (Col. 28, lines 8-12, Each tab selected presents it's own user interface with bundled set of controls. For example Figures 6, 6a, 26, 26a, 40-41).

As in Claim 5, Kahn teaches utilizing an events-based navigation module to determine the bundling of the plurality of controls (the event being which tabbed has been clicked upon. The selected tab is what determines the controls to be displayed, Col. 28, lines 8-12).

As in Claim 6, Kahn teaches receiving a user request for information from the business application (Col. 28, lines 35-43) presenting controls to the user via the user interface to access the business application, wherein the controls are presented to the user based upon the user request for information (Col. 28, lines 39-47) and receiving second information from the user via the controls, wherein the first and second information is processed to provide an employment service to the user (Col. 28, lines 43-52).

As in Claim 7, Kahn teaches presenting the controls to the user via the user interface to access business applications, wherein the controls to access the business applications are presented to the user in a common format (web format or html is a commonly known format. Also the displayed pages are common to any Microsoft application).

As in Claim 8, Kahn teaches bundling controls, wherein the bundled controls are presented to the user via the user interface to access the business applications (Col. 28, lines 8-12, Each tab selected presents it's own user interface with bundled set of controls. For example Figures 6, 6a, 26, 26a, 40-41).

As in Claim 9, Kahn teaches utilizing an events-based navigation module to determine the bundling of the controls (See Column 5 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 10, Kahn teaches the controls to access the plurality of business applications are presented to the user based upon the first information received from the user, and wherein the first and second information is processed to provide an employment service to the user (Col. 28, lines 30-52, et seq.).

As in Claim 11, Kahn teaches receiving a user request for information from business application, and wherein the controls are presented to the user based upon the user request for information received from the business application (Col. 28, lines 30-52, et seq.).

As in Claim 12, Kahn teaches establishing a user identity based upon at least a portion of the first information received from the user, and determining a user authorization for the user, wherein the user authorization is based upon the established user identity (Figure 5 with corresponding text, Col. 27, lines 30-38).

As in Claim 13, Kahn teaches the processing of the received information comprises accessing database of information and updating the database of information based upon the information received from the user (Col. 20, line 1, et seq.).

As in Claim 14, Kahn teaches accessing a database of information to identify a business application which is associated with a portion of the information received from the user and providing the portion of the received information to the identified business application, wherein the identified business application module processes the provided information to provide an employment service to the user (Col 26, lines 32, et seq.).

As in Claim 15, Kahn teaches one business application accesses a database of information having data concerning the user to process the provided information (Col 5, lines 50, et seq.).

As in Claim 16, Kahn teaches storing a portion of the information received from the user in database of information (Col. 26, lines 39-40).

As in Claim 17, Kahn teaches updating database of information the information received from the user (Col. 26, lines 39-40).

As in Claim 18, Kahn teaches updating databases of information with the information received from the user, wherein the databases of information each contain information relating to the user (Col. 27, lines 2-24).

As in Claim 19, Kahn teaches maintaining a user session log within database to record the employment service provided to the user (Col. 25, lines 8-16).

As in Claim 20, Kahn teaches delivering a message via the user interface confirming the employment service has been provided to the user (Figure 44 with corresponding text).

As in Claim 21, Kahn teaches accessing a first database of information to verify a user identity and a user authorization of the user based upon at least a portion of the information received from the user (Figure 5 and corresponding text), accessing a second database of information to identify the business application module which is associated with at least a portion of the information received from the user and providing the portion of the received information to the identified business application module, wherein the identified business application module processes the provided

Art Unit: 2179

information to provide an employment service to the user (Col. 26, line 32 – Col. 27, line 6).

As in Claim 22, Kahn teaches the identified business application module accessing a third database of information in processing the provided information, wherein the third database of information includes data associated with the user (Figure 1, ref. 30 and 40).

As in Claim 23, Kahn teaches a system for providing employment management services, the system comprising: a portal server hosting at least a portion of an employment management services accessible to a user via a client system (Figure 1 with corresponding text), business application, wherein the business application concerns an employment service which is offered to the user (Col. 11, lines 26-49), database of information concerning an employment service which is offered to the user (Col. 20, line 16 et seq.), the employment management services comprising a user interface comprising controls whereby the user submits information, the employment management services being available via a network to assist services manager in managing employment services offered to the user (Col. 47, lines 21-23).

As in Claim 24, Kahn teaches the user interface further comprises a portal and wherein the controls of the user interface are provided within the portal (Col. 11, lines 26-40).

As in Claim 25, Kahn teaches the services manager includes an employer of the user (Col. 20, line 27 et seq.).

As in Claim 26, Kahn teaches the services manager includes a third party supplier who provides services to the user (Col. 13, line 1, et seq.).

As in Claim 27, Kahn teaches the business application includes a payroll services application (Col. 47, lines 21-44 and Col. 41, line 13, et seq.).

As in Claim 28, Kahn teaches the client system includes a computer (Fig. 1, Ref. 10).

As in Claim 29, Kahn teaches an authentication module to authenticate an identity of the user, wherein the authentication module compares the submitted information to information stored in the database of information and an authorization module to determine which employment services are available to the user (Fig. 5 with corresponding text).

As in Claim 30, Kahn teaches a security module to protect information exchanged within the system (Col. 13, lines 42-50).

As in Claim 32, Kahn teaches a user database, wherein the user database includes data associated with the user (Col. 23, line 1 et seq.) and a application database, wherein the application database includes data associated with the user and which is relevant to the business application (System Level Data, Col. 20, line 16 – Col. 22, line 67).

As in Claim 33, Kahn teaches a workflow module, wherein the workflow module directs the presentation of the controls within the user interface based upon a received user request for information (Col. 13, line 58 – Col. 14, line 7 and Col. 22, lines 43 – 50).

As in Claim 34, Kahn teaches a business rules engine, wherein the business rules engine controls the presentation of the user interface (Col. 14, line 8 - Col. 15, line 31).

As in Claim 35, Kahn teaches a business logic module (Col. 6, line 1, et seq.).

As in Claim 36, Kahn teaches a session management module (Col. 27, line 31 et seq., Col. 25, lines 8-16).

As in Claim 37, Kahn teaches a data integration module to update information stored in the database of information (Col. 27, lines 2-61).

As in Claim 38, Kahn teaches an event-based navigation module, wherein the events-based navigation module bundles a plurality of controls to be presented to the user via the user interface (See Claim 5 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 39, Kahn teaches the event-based navigation module bundles the plurality of controls to be presented to the user via the user interface based upon information received from the user (See Claims 8 and 9 rejection *supra*).

As in Claim 40, Kahn teaches the bundled controls are associated with business applications (Figure 6, ref. 3100 refers to controls associated with applications for each tab, ie. Ref. 3000).

As in Claim 41, Kahn teaches an application server to communicate with the portal server and the business application and application database of information, wherein the application database of information includes data associated with the user (Figure 1 and corresponding text).

As in Claim 42, Kahn teaches an event-based navigation module, wherein the events-based navigation module bundles a plurality of controls to be presented to the user via the user interface (the event being which tabbed has been clicked upon. The selected tab is what determines the controls to be displayed, Col. 28, lines 8-12).

As in Claim 43, Kahn teaches the bundled plurality of controls are associated with a plurality of business applications (Claim 40).

As in Claim 44, Kahn teaches a data integration module to update information stored in the application database of information (Col. 27, lines 2-61).

As in Claim 45, Kahn teaches a business application logic layer comprising an application module, wherein the application module relates to a service available to a user, and wherein the business application level delivers the application module to the portal and a data access layer to retrieve and store information ("Example of Data Component Interaction" beginning in Col. 26, line 31 and Col. 27, lines 53-62).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kahn et al., US Patent 6401079, hereinafter Kahn, and further in view of Gates et al., US Patent 6411938, hereinafter Gates.

Kahn teaches user authentication for entry to a web portal for providing an employment service to a user through a business application with a database of information concerning the employment service offered to the user (See rejection of Claims 23, 29 and 30). While Kahn teaches user authentication for entry to the portal providing employment services, they fail to show the security module utilizes a secure sockets layer protocol as recited in the claims. In the same field of the invention, Gates teaches an employment service web portal with a security module similar to that of Kahn. In addition, Gates further teaches the security module utilizing a secure sockets layer protocol (Col. 9, lines 1-2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kahn and Gates before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the employment services web portal taught by Kahn to include the secure sockets layer protocol of Gates, in order to obtain SSL implementation for secure login to a employment services web portal. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a security measure for private data including payment methods and timesheet data would have been obtained, as taught by Gates.

Conclusion

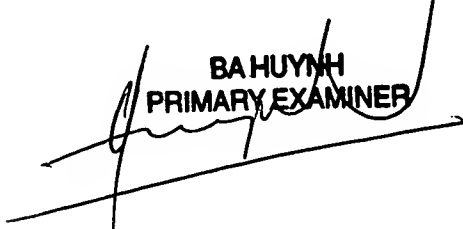
The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar online employment services.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M Hanne whose telephone number is (571) 272-4135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER